

**MINUTES**  
**Approved by the Commission**  
**Commission for Reapportionment**  
**Friday, September 10, 2021**  
**9:00 A.M.**  
**State Capitol Building, Room WW17**  
**Boise, Idaho**

Members: (Commissioners) Cochairs Bart Davis and Dan Schmidt, Commissioners Thomas Dayley, Nels Mitchell, Amber Pence, and Eric Redman; (Commission Staff) Paul Boucher, Elizabeth Bowen, Keith Bybee, and Todd Cutler

Absent/Excused: None

Also present (Signed in): None

**The meeting was called to order by Cochair Bart Davis at 9:10 a.m. A silent roll call was taken.**

**Opening Remarks**

- Cochair Davis began by providing an overview of the events planned for the day. He strongly emphasized that the plan the public would see the following week was a draft plan. Cochair Davis stated that the commission did its best to create a plan that conforms to the law. He believed the draft plan would show the public how difficult it was to create a plan that conforms to the law and split the state in a sensible manner. He hoped the public would share thoughtful comments as the commission traveled around the state and shared that public input meant the most to the commission. Cochair Schmidt agreed.
- Cochair Schmidt stated the commission had been working hard on the plans and he knew the public had too. He made known that all plans submitted would be available to view online.
- Commissioner Dayley commented that one of the most important things he had learned so far was the difficulty of making the districts equal, and he asked the public to help in the process.
- Commissioner Redman mentioned that the huge increases in population and the statutory limitations imposed layers of difficulty.
- Commissioner Mitchell emphasized that the commission had limited discretion because of legal boundaries.
- The commission moved on to reviewing the work done by subcommittees. The commission first looked at the northern Idaho subcommittee's plan. Commissioner Redman stated they had two plans and preferred the version that would keep Shoshone and Clearwater Counties with Kootenai County. They were able to keep the cities in northern Idaho in separate districts and were able to accomplish that without splitting any cities. Commissioner Redman went on to say that he and Cochair Schmidt had looked into the southern part of the state but needed to coordinate with the other subcommittees. Cochair Schmidt added that he and Commissioner Redman had made it all the way south to Canyon County; their plan involved splitting it, which allowed for the three counties north of it to stay whole. Cochair Schmidt mentioned they added a new split in northern Idaho because of the population and geography. He noted that Kootenai, Bonner, and Nez Perce Counties featured splits, with Nez Perce County being the new split.
- Next, the commission viewed a plan created by the Treasure Valley subcommittee. Commissioner Dayley stated their charge was southwestern Idaho and went on to describe the process used to create the plan. Based on population, Ada County had about nine and a half districts and Canyon County had about four and a half districts. They were also interested in creating space for eastern Idaho districts to pick up some citizens, and they knew the northern subcommittee would need

around 3,000 constituents from Canyon County. The Treasure Valley subcommittee's work consisted of shifting the district boundaries in ways that balanced the 15 districts while also giving the other two teams the ability to gain necessary population. They put Owyhee County with Ada and Canyon Counties so they could give Twin Falls County and Elmore County back to the eastern part of the state. The districts in western Ada County were slightly overpopulated and eastern Ada County had some deficiencies in population. Ada and Canyon County each had one external split. Commissioner Mitchell added that they took a close look at the cities in trying to keep those district boundaries as close as possible to the city limits.

- Commissioner Pence led the discussion on the eastern Idaho subcommittee's efforts. She stated that eastern Idaho had grown a lot, so it was quite a challenge. Cochair Davis mentioned that Teton, Fremont, and Jefferson Counties were almost a perfectly sized district when put together and hoped that they could incorporate that into the final product. Commissioner Pence mentioned that it was interesting that Owyhee County touched three other counties that had been split in the past, suggesting Owyhee County could be flexible. Commissioner Pence hoped that they could merge the three subcommittee plans that day. She said there was a domino effect when creating the plans. She described how the subcommittee paid attention to communities of interest, geographical constraints, and staying within the 5% population deviation figure.

- Cochair Davis brought the commission's attention to Interstate 15, showing it could be utilized as a boundary rather than using the county lines. Ms. Bowen explained that Custer County was assigned to a district on a prior version, but this plan, created the day before, did not include it. Cochair Davis decided they should recess in order to incorporate that district so the commission could have a more accurate report on their work. Cochair Davis wanted to discuss how the commission could merge the plans together. Cochair Davis and Commissioner Pence saw that the plan they had been discussing did not include a district the two believed they had drawn.

**Without objection, the commission recessed at 9:54 a.m. The commission reconvened at 10:51 a.m.**

#### **Continued Discussion**

- The commission discussed congressional district plans. The first plan they viewed had a difference in population of 202. The next plan had a difference of only 52. Commissioner Mitchell explained that the version with a difference of 52 took the existing congressional districts and moved the boundary slightly west, with a split in Ada County. The next plan had a difference in population of 237 and required no counties to be split in two. The commission decided to bring the two congressional plans with population differences of 52 and 237 with them on the road. Cochair Schmidt made sure that they also would have a copy of the prior congressional district plan with them as well, in order to give the public a reference.

- Discussion returned to the legislative district plans. Commission staff combined all three subcommittee plans during the break. Cochair Davis spoke about what he did with Commissioner Pence during the break. They tried to create a solution for Custer, Valley, Boise, and Elmore Counties. They moved Adams County north into the same district as Idaho County. By doing that, they were able to get all the districts across the state within the 5% deviation, excluding one district in the Treasure Valley.

- Commissioner Mitchell believed that the Treasure Valley subcommittee would be able to move the districts around to accommodate the needs of the eastern Idaho districts.

- Mr. Boucher informed the commission that the next meeting would be held Wednesday, September 15, in Caldwell's public library at 1:00 p.m.

- Commissioner Mitchell brought up Ms. Bowen's draft summary of legal criteria for redistricting, which would be available at public meetings. Commissioner Mitchell believed it to be important that the public understand that population numbers were taken exclusively from census data. He suggested removing language about floterial districts, as most people would not understand it, as

well as making two other technical changes within the fact sheet. The commission agreed to take the language surrounding floterial districts out of the sheet so that the public would not be confused. Ms. Bowen agreed to incorporate the technical changes.

**With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.**